

U.S. Application No. 09/720,629 -- 2

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 14 – 21 as follows:

1 - 13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein

the base cloth is constituted by nonwoven fabric made of filaments formed of poly lactic acid based polymers, each polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90 or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than 0 and 10 or less,

~~wherein the~~ each filament is formed of the poly lactic acid based polymer with high melting point and the poly lactic acid based polymer with low melting point, and has a round cross-section selected from a group of side-by-side, islands-sea and sheath-core types, and ~~comprises polymer with high melting point and polymer with low melting point,~~ birefringence of 12×10^{-3} to 30×10^{-3} and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight, and

~~wherein~~ the filaments constituting the base cloth are thermally bonded with each other, and ~~wherein~~ the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.

15. (currently amended) Base cloth according to claim 14, wherein the filaments are adhered with each other at the contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another polymer at the contact points thereof.

16. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein

the base cloth is constituted by nonwoven fabric made of filaments formed of poly lactic acid based polymers, each polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90 or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than 0 and 10 or less,

~~wherein the~~ each filament is formed of the poly lactic acid based polymer with high melting point and the poly lactic acid based polymer with low melting point, and has a non-round cross-section selected from a group of side-by-side, islands-sea, sheath-core and multilobe types, ~~and comprises polymer with high melting point and polymer with low melting point,~~ and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight, and

~~wherein~~ the filaments constituting the base cloth are thermally bonded with each other, and ~~wherein~~ the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.

17. (currently amended) Base cloth according to claim 16, wherein the filaments are adhered with each other at contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another polymer at the contact points thereof.

18. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein
the base cloth is being constituted by nonwoven fabric made of filaments formed of poly lactic acid based polymer, the polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90 or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than 0 and 10 or less,

~~wherein~~ the filament has a round cross-section of single phase, birefringence of 12×10^{-3} to 30×10^{-3} and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight,

~~wherein~~ the filaments constituting the base cloth are thermally bonded with each other and adhered with each other at the contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another polymer at the contact points thereof, and

~~wherein~~ the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.

19. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein

the base cloth is being constituted by nonwoven fabric made of filaments formed of poly lactic acid based polymer, the polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90 or more and less than 100,

~~wherein~~ the filament has a non-round cross-section of single phase and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight, and

~~wherein~~ the filaments constituting the base cloth are thermally bonded with each other and adhered with each other at the contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another polymer at the contact points thereof, and ~~wherein~~ the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.

20. (currently amended) Base cloth for tufted carpet, wherein

the base cloth is constituted by nonwoven fabric made of a mixture of first filaments formed of first poly lactic acid based polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90 or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than 0 and 10 or less, and second filaments formed of second poly lactic acid based polymer having lower melting point than that of the first poly lactic acid based polymer being a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, one of the D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid having a copolymerization mole ratio of 90 or more and less than 100 and the other having a copolymerization mole ratio of more than 0 and 10 or less, ~~in which each first filament is formed of a poly lactic acid based polymer with high melting point and each second filament is formed of a second poly lactic acid based polymer with low melting point,~~

~~wherein~~ each of the first and second filaments has round cross-section, birefringence of 12×10^{-3} to 30×10^{-3} and crystallization degree of 15 to 25 percent by weight, and

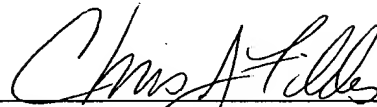
~~wherein~~ the filaments constituting the nonwoven fabric are thermally bonded with each other, and ~~wherein~~ the base cloth for tufted carpet has heat shrinkage of 1 percent or less at 120°C in 3 minutes both in a machine direction and a cross direction thereto.

21. (currently amended) Base cloth according to claim 20, wherein the filaments are adhered with each other at contact points thereof by binder resin comprising another polymer ~~at the contact points thereof~~.

22. (original) Tufted carpet comprising the base cloth according to any one of claims 14 to 21.

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Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris J. Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

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